

The Circumcision Procedure

Restraint

To prevent movement and “injury,” the child’s body is tightly restrained. The circumstraint, a specially-made plastic board, has a body-shaped depression and straps for restraining the baby. ***Naked and spread-eagle, he is now prepped for the torture that is about to come.***

Tearing The Foreskin Off The Glans

At birth, a membrane keeps the foreskin fused to the glans until natural separation around the age of puberty. A blunt probe is shoved under the foreskin and around the glans, to tear this membrane and release his foreskin. ***Imagine the pain of this happening to your fingernails.***

Crushing and Cutting

The exact procedure for this stage depends on the specific device being used. But essentially a hemostat or other clamp is used to crush the layers of foreskin for several minutes and “fuse” them together. Then a scalpel or scissors is used to sever the skin along the crushed line. Even the plastibell, touted as “cut free,” requires tearing the foreskin (the step above) and some cutting before the device will fit. ***Every bit of this crushing and slicing is very painful.***

“Sleeping”

Many parents are told that their son slept through the procedure, and he may even still appear to be sleeping when returned. Can you imagine sleeping through what was just described? Often, this “sleeping” is actually his body going into shock from the intense agony. ***Pain relief, if even attempted, is rarely fully effective for this level of trauma.***



We are a local, all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of the epidemic in America of forced genital mutilation (also called circumcision). Particularly when performed on an infant, circumcision is extremely risky, harmful, and completely unnecessary.

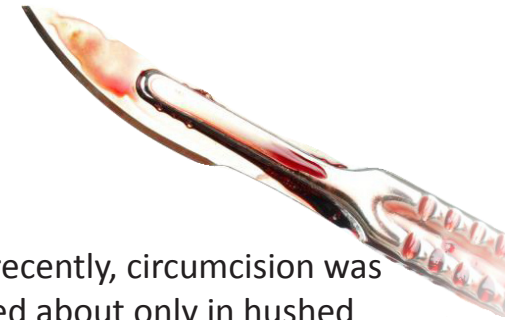
Boys deserve better. Protect their bodies. Keep them whole until they can make their own fully-informed decision about this.

Our resources are intended primarily for residents of the Greater Cincinnati Tri-State Metro Area of Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeast Indiana, but we welcome anyone outside our area who is interested in learning more about this topic.

Learn more and connect with us:

<https://cincycircinfo.org>
Facebook: @cincyintactivists

What do you **REALLY** know about circumcision?



Until recently, circumcision was talked about only in hushed whispers. A veil of secrecy made myths and rumors extremely prevalent. Most people are not fully informed about the details of the procedure, nor the complications that it can cause.

This is a conversation that needs to happen.

When parents are provided factual information on the harms of infant circumcision and the benefits of leaving the child’s body whole and intact, it becomes clear that: **The circumcision decision should be left to the person to whom the penis is attached, not his parents.**

The Impacts of Circumcision

The physiology behind the procedure and what it removes means every circumcision results in:

- Loss of nerve endings and their sensations.
- Pain during the surgery itself and during the healing period; life-long pain for some men.
- Direct contact of the glans on clothing causes discomfort and chafing.
- The glans and inner foreskin remnant will eventually become keratinized (callused) and dry, further reducing sexual sensation.
- The “gliding action” of a loose foreskin is lost, altering the mechanics of sex.
- Potential for sexual/ emotional insecurities.

Risks And Complications

- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Excessive or “insufficient” foreskin removed
- Amputation of the glans
- Hypospadias, epispadias, or chordee
- Infection
- Necrosis (gangrene) of the penis
- Inclusion cysts, urethrocutaneous fistulas, or other abnormal healing problems
- Adhesions and/or skin bridges
- Meatitis and/or meatal stenosis
- Phimosis
- Urinary retention issues
- Death

What does “rare” mean?

Many of the complications listed above are said to be “rare,” but without mandatory reporting of these complications, the true occurrence rate is unknown. **Regardless, it doesn’t matter how “rare” it is when it happens to you or your son.** These unnecessary tragedies are totally preventable, by simply not circumcising.

The foreskin is natural, healthy, good for daily comfort... and sex!

Contrary to common myth, the foreskin is a very complex structure and has several very important roles throughout the life of the intact boy and the man he becomes.

Protection & Daily Comfort:

Constant stimulation from clothing can be very uncomfortable to the sensitive penile nerve endings in the glans and inner foreskin. The foreskin protects against this overstimulation, and helps prevent foreign objects (play sand, soiled diapers, etc.) from entering the urethra.

Moisturizing:

All skin types have a natural optimum moisture level; some need more than others. Think of how uncomfortable and painful it would be for your inner eyelids to be inverted and dry out. Likewise, the glans and inner surface of the foreskin are supposed to stay moist and supple. On an intact penis, they can remain “internal” and not be constantly exposed to the drying effects of air or clothing.

Sensory:

The inner foreskin is packed full of sensory nerve endings, even moreso than the glans itself. At the tip, near the interface of inner and outer skin, tiny ridges known as the ridged band contain specialized light-touch nerve endings, similar to those in the cheek and palm.

Gliding Action:

The skin of the penis is not anchored to the underlying tissues. With an intact foreskin, there is enough skin to allow for full expansion of the penis during erection, without the skin getting too tight. The loose skin is able to glide up and down the shaft. (Like a “water slinky.”) This free movement reduces uncomfortable friction and increases the pleasure of sex -- for both partners.

Circumcision doesn’t remove “just a piece of skin.” A circumcised adult male is missing about 15 square inches of penile skin. The functions described above -and more- are diminished or eliminated. Many boys and men resent that circumcision was forced upon them. Partial foreskin “restoration” is possible through skin expansion, but the specialized tissues and nerve endings will never grow back.

Care and hygiene of an intact foreskin is easy.

“If intact, don’t retract. Only clean what is seen.” When a boy is born, his foreskin is fused to the glans by a membrane, somewhat similar to how a fingernail is fused to the finger. This membrane will naturally separate over time, but the age at which this happens varies widely, sometimes not until puberty or beyond. **There is virtually no reason to retract a boy’s foreskin** -- not to “clean” it, not to medically “inspect” it, not even to insert a catheter. **Just wash it like you would a finger.**

Once retractable, the boy (and only him) should gently pull it back and rinse under the foreskin with clean water during baths or showers. Avoid soaps, they alter the pH and moisture balance of the skin. If certain situations require more than water, be sure to only use a gentle, unscented non-soap cleanser or certain products specifically for sensitive skin.